

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-28 (Canceled).

Claim 29 (New): An electrical contact member suitable for electrically interconnecting two conductive members in series, which members can move relative to each other, and are part of medium-voltage or high-voltage electrical apparatus, the contact member comprising:

a strength-imparting base layer made of an electrically conductive material; and  
a coating layer formed from metallic silver and configured to come into contact with the two electrically conductive members, the coating layer being present over at least a portion of an outer surface of the base layer,

wherein the coating layer has a micro-structure formed by pure silver crystals, with a presence of nodules made of silver and of an additional metallic material formed by at least one additional metal that is different from silver, the additional material being present in the coating layer in a proportion of less than 1% by weight, or less than 0.5% by weight, and or less than 0.1% by weight.

Claim 30 (New): An electrical contact member according to claim 29, wherein the additional material is present in the coating layer in a proportion of more than 0.001% by weight, or more than 0.01% by weight.

Claim 31 (New): An electrical contact member according to claim 29, wherein each metal forming the additional material does not belong to the platinum column of the periodic table of elements.

Claim 32 (New): An electrical contact member according to claim 31, wherein the additional material is formed by at least one element chosen from copper, phosphorus, and indium.

Claim 33 (New): An electrical contact member according to claim 29, wherein a thickness of the coating layer lies in a range 1 µm to 1000 µm, or in a range 10 µm to 500 µm.

Claim 34 (New): An electrical contact member according to claim 29, wherein the base layer is made of copper, alloyed with zirconium and/or with chromium.

Claim 35 (New): An electrical contact member according to claim 34, wherein the chromium and/or the zirconium are present in a proportion or in proportions of less than 1% by weight of the base layer, or less than 0.5% by weight.

Claim 36 (New): An electrical contact member according to claim 29, wherein, between the base layer and the coating layer, an interface layer is provided that serves to improve adhesion between the base layer and the coating layer.

Claim 37 (New): An electrical contact member according to claim 36, wherein the interface layer is made of alloyed nickel, or of alloyed palladium.

Claim 38 (New): An electrical contact member according to claim 29, wherein the electrical contact member is looped back on itself in a manner of a ring.

Claim 39 (New): An electrical contact member according to claim 29, wherein the electrical contact member is formed in one piece.

Claim 40 (New): An electrical contact member according to claim 39, wherein the electrical contact member is formed of a single rolled-up wire forming a succession of turns.

Claim 41 (New): An electrical contact member according to claim 29, wherein the electrical contact member is formed of a plurality of contact elements.

Claim 42 (New): An electrical contact member according to claim 41, wherein the various contact elements are secured together.

Claim 43 (New): An electrical contact member according to claim 41, wherein the plurality of contact elements are independent.

Claim 44 (New): A method of manufacturing an electrical contact member according to claim 29, comprising:

shaping at least the base layer; and

covering at least a portion of the outer surface of the base layer with a coating layer.

Claim 45 (New): A method according to claim 44, wherein only the base layer is shaped, and then the base layer as shaped is covered with the coating layer.

Claim 46 (New): A method according to claim 44, wherein firstly the base layer is covered with the coating layer, then both the base layer and the coating layer are shaped together.

Claim 47 (New): A method according to claim 44, wherein the base layer is shaped while being covered with the coating layer.

Claim 48 (New): A method according to claim 44, wherein firstly the coating layer is formed in a form of an alloy of silver and of the additional material, and then the base layer is covered with the coating layer as formed.

Claim 49 (New): A method according to claim 44, wherein the base layer is covered with substantially pure silver, and then the resulting layer of substantially pure silver is covered with the additional material.

Claim 50 (New): A medium-voltage or high-voltage electrical apparatus comprising:  
at least two electrically conductive members that can move relative to each other in service; and  
at least one electrical contact suitable for electrically interconnecting two adjacent conductive members, wherein the or each electrical contact member is a contact member according to claim 29.

Claim 51 (New): An apparatus according to claim 50, wherein the apparatus is an interrupter electrical apparatus, a circuit-breaker, or a disconnector.

Claim 52 (New): An apparatus according to claim 50, wherein the apparatus is a set of busbars.

Claim 53 (New): An apparatus according to claim 50, wherein the two electrically conductive members are disposed concentrically and each electrical contact member is held stationary, in service, by being wedged between facing walls of the two conductive members.

Claim 54 (New): An apparatus according to claim 53, wherein the electrical contact member is received in a groove provided in one or the other of the two electrically conductive members.

Claim 55 (New): An apparatus according to claim 50, wherein the two electrically conductive members are disposed one behind the other, a hollow coupling piece fitting over facing ends of the two conductive members, while each electrical contact is held stationary, in service, by wedging between facing walls of the coupling piece and of at least one of the two conductive members.